



## S'pore's "happy" toilets to be given five-star hotel ratings

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**T**HEY might not quite offer the five-star ambience of a Hilton or Hyatt, but Singapore's public toilets are set to be given a hotel-style grading system under a SARS-inspired hygiene campaign.

"It is about clean toilets," Restroom Association of Singapore chairman Jack Sim said as he launched the *Happy Toilet, Healthy People* campaign.

Sim told *AFP* that his association would grade at least 40,000 public toilets under a system similar to the way hotels are rated globally.

Five-star will be the highest rating, with toilets graded on a list of criteria that includes proper toilet seats and urinals for children.

Sim said the the private sector and the government's National Environment Agency would share the costs of the campaign, which will reach at least S\$100,000 (US\$57,800).

He said the recent outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) had made it easier to seek funding because the disease had raised awareness about the importance of good hygiene.

"With SARS, the program suddenly became more important," he said.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared Singapore free of SARS on Saturday but leaders here warned Singapore residents must still maintain high levels of personal hygiene and environmental cleanliness to avoid a recurrence.

Singapore, where the sale of chewing gum is illegal and people are fined for spitting, is famous for its unique approach to personal standards.

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